

Lincoln Conservation Commission Town Report for 2010

This year saw the revitalization of the Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC) with the addition of three new members: Lisa Nading, Katie Manaras, and Ilana Brett. We are delighted to have their energy and commitment.

In the winter the LCC met with representatives of the USFS to discuss the possibility of two Forest Service purchases in Lincoln. The LCC supports these purchases to conserve those lands in perpetuity and to secure public access on them, including hunting privileges.

In the spring we held a program at the Lincoln Library on bird habitat conservation with Audubon Society scientists Mark LaBarr and Katie Manaras. Hopefully the program will inspire some landowners to initiate or continue bird habitat conservation measures on their properties. About thirty people attended the program.

Several years ago the LCC put tree tubes around 100 red oak seedlings on the Colby Hill Town Forest as part of a USDA NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant. Red oaks are rare in Lincoln and they provide hard mast for many species of wildlife. While there are several mature trees at the height of the land on the property, regeneration has been limited due to deer browsing. Unfortunately, we found that the tree tubes sometimes prevented the seedlings from growing properly, and also many of the tubes fell over. In the fall of 2010 we removed the tubes and stakes. We hope to use some leftover WHIP funds to put fencing around more oak seedlings in 2011.

In October the LCC invited Ben Kilham, a black bear rehabilitator and expert on black bear behavior, to give a talk at the Lincoln Library. Ninety people attended. We have since provided a DVD of Ben's program in Lincoln and also a National Geographic DVD about Ben and his bears at the library for people to watch at home. At some point in 2011 we will play the DVD of the program at the library for the general public. Ben's book "Among the Bears" is also available from the library.

The LCC doesn't meet regularly, but any meetings we have will be warned at the Town Clerk's. Sometimes our "meetings" are work projects. If you are interested in joining the LCC, or participating in our work parties, feel free to contact us.

Ilana Brett
Katie Manaras
Lisa Nading
Tina Scharf, Chair
Jackie Tuxill